



2011 TRAIL CONSTRUCTION REPORT

Ice Age National Scenic Trail Construction projects are primarily managed and executed by the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA). In 2011, 2,003 individual volunteers contributed 65,895 hours, or \$1,407,580 in volunteer service, toward creating, supporting and protecting the Ice Age NST. Of the total volunteer hours, 50,671 hours were devoted to trail building and maintenance, natural and cultural resource protection and continuing education. In 2011 the Ice Age Trail Alliance:

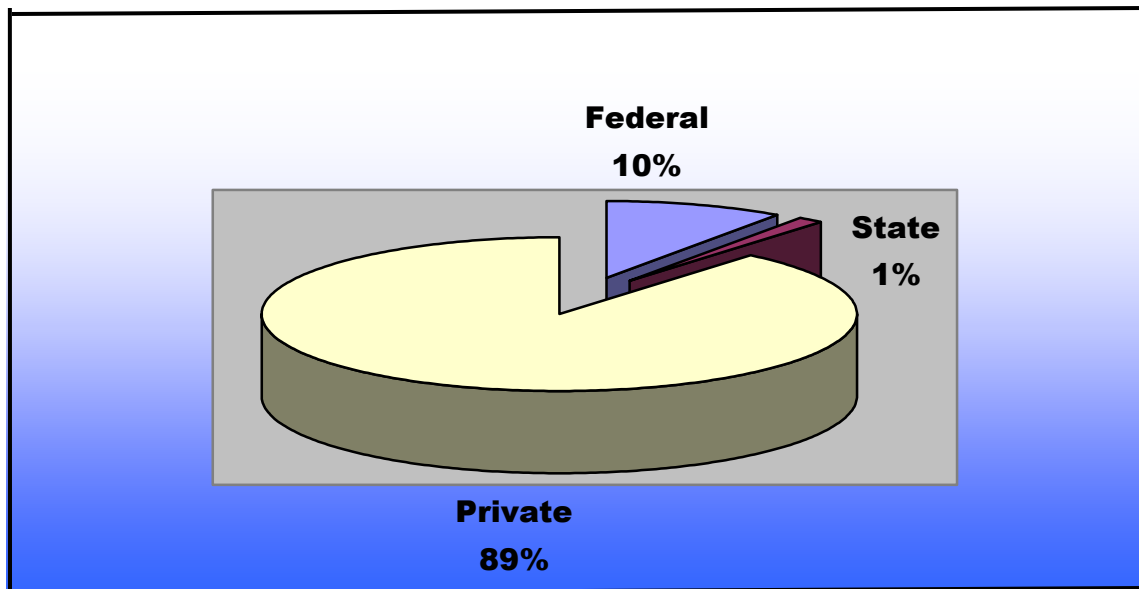


- Built or upgraded *33.5 miles* of trail
- Crafted *872 feet* of boardwalks
- Created *420 linear feet* of rock walls
- Shaped over *50,000 linear feet* of side hill tread
- Protected conservation investments coordinating and

supporting regular trail maintenance outings locally

- Assessed *912 acres* of land for future trail development
- Worked with partners to permanently protect *547 acres* of land for future generations to enjoy
- Received the **Service-Wide Hartzog Award** in the Outstanding Youth Group category and the NPS National Accessibility Achievement Award in the "Volunteer Accessibility Achievement" category





Federal and State financial contributions and volunteer value comparison

Activity Highlights

In Polk County, the IATA completed a multi-year project to officially open 6 new miles of Trail through spectacular scenery at Straight Lake State Park. Like Vincent Van Gogh painting the last flourishes on a priceless masterpiece, the final push was accomplished in June with the help of 65 volunteers who contributed over 1,500 hours to bring this project to fruition.





- In Marathon County volunteers constructed three quarters of a mile of new trail highlighted by a native rock crossing (pictured above) of the Plover River and a 26-foot-long bridge with a 193-foot boardwalk hand hewn from northern white cedar native timber. The steady murmur of good-natured laughter at camp and in the field, despite mud, steady rain and head-scratching "what to do?" situations, was an amazing experience to be part of. **More than 80 volunteers contributed more than 2,200 hours** hand-crafting sustainable tread and native water crossings, installing trail signage and feeding the troops. At the concurrent training session, Ice Age Trail University (IAT-U), 39 volunteers participated in the crew leadership skills training, 28 participated in First Aid/CPR trainings, 5 participated in the food safety and project support training and 19 participated in chainsaw safety training.
- In Washington County volunteers successfully completed a half-mile reroute in Pike Lake State Park and upgraded the popular Loew Lake Segment.
- In Waushara County 68 volunteers contributed 1,500 hours rerouting the trail to interpret a large glacial kettle in the Greenwood State Wildlife Area.
- In Manitowoc County volunteers built new trail to connect the Woodland Dunes Nature Preserve with the Aurora Health Clinic.

- In Lincoln County, 115 volunteers contributed 2,445 hours upgrading the historic Grandfather Falls Segment. Youth participation included a Service Learning component with 51 “Summer Saunters” students.
- In Taylor County, the IATA partnered with private landowners and the New Vision Wilderness and Mentors & Mentees programs. 88 volunteers contributed more than 2,400 hours building 1,600 feet of new trail, 156 feet of boardwalk, mowing and clearing 6 miles of trail and updating trail signage.
- In Dane County more than 140 volunteers, including young adults from the George Williams College of Aurora University and Construct-U from the Madison YWCA, contributed 2,600 hours to open two new miles of trail.



- In Rock County, the IATA created a new 3-mile section of trail in Janesville, the “City of Parks”. More than 140 volunteers contributed over 2,500 hours removing buckthorn, honeysuckle and other invasive plants, building rock walls and shaping sustainable side hill trail. The IATA partnered with Hendricks Development Group, the American Institute of Professional Geologists, Park High School and Milton School District and Community RECAP and Work-Enders programs.
- Statewide, the IATA’s highly successful Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) program attracted 775 individual volunteers who contributed 20,677 hours to enhancing the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

